

East Grinstead Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending December 31st, 1914.

OLD STONE HOUSE,

EAST GRINSTEAD,

28th August, 1915.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1915.

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT on the Health and Sanitary condition of the East Grinstead Urban District for the Year ending the 31st December, 1914.

Area : 6,355 Acres.

Population : Census (of 1911) 7,090.

	1912.	1913.	1914.
Population estimated to middle of year	7,150	7,250	7,350
Birth Rate per 1,000	17·6	16·7	17·5
General Death Rate per 1,000	8·3	9·9	10·6
Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000	·41	0·0	·13
Death Rate, Phthisis	1·1	1·3	·41
Death Rate from Respiratory Diseases	1·02	1·3	1·6
Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births	39·6	66·1	38·0
Deaths over 65 per centage of Total Deaths...	40·0	40·2	41·02

Vital Statistics.

In 1914 the deaths of 95 persons at all ages and from all causes were recorded in the District, against 88 in 1913, and 78 in 1912. Of these 95 deaths, 17 were of persons not residing in the District, but brought in from outside.

The actual number of deaths of persons resident in the Urban District was therefore 78, equal to a death rate of 10·6 per 1,000 persons living. Of the 78 recorded deaths, 5 were children under one year of age, and were in the proportion of 3·8 per cent. of those born ; 32, or 41·02 per cent. were of persons 65 years of age and upwards, 7 of these persons were over the age of 80 years, the oldest being 88.

Five children died under the age of one year, in the proportion of 38 per 1,000 of registered births.

Births.

The births in the District showed a slight increase over the previous year, being 129 against 121, in the ratio of 17·5 per 1,000 of those living. Seventy of the children born were girls, and 59 boys ; 6 of the registered births were of illegitimate children.

Zymotic Diseases.

One child died of measles ; no other deaths were due to the ordinary Zymotic diseases. There were three deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, but none from other forms of Tubercular disease.



Notification of Infectious Disease.

Thirty-two cases of Infectious Disease were notified as follows :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Ophthalmia Neonatorum appears for the first time in this list, an order having been issued by the Local Government Board to include this infantile disease in the list of notifiable complaints.

Scarlet Fever.

In the middle of September there were half-a-dozen cases of Scarlet Fever among the troops billeted in the town belonging to the London Brigade. There had been some cases in the Brigade before they left their previous Camp at Bisley. Two of these soldiers failed with Scarlet Fever while they were in the Cottage Hospital, where they had been admitted for other affections. These cases were immediately removed to the Sanatorium, but the Hospital had to be closed for disinfection, as two other patients contracted the disease. Of the 15 cases removed to the Sanatorium, 11 were moved by the Urban Council Officers, and 4 were taken direct to the Sanatorium by the Military authorities.

Under the auspices of the County Council a series of illustrated Cinema lantern lectures on the nature, origin, and spread of Tuberculosis was given in various towns in East Sussex. One of these lectures was given in East Grinstead, and I was invited to explain the pictures as they were thrown on the screen.

Troops and Billeting.

A large number of troops passed through the town during the last four months of the year, on two occasions between 4,000 and 5,000 men were billeted in the town for about a week. This led to a certain amount of overcrowding and discomfort, but on the whole the billeting arrangements were very well managed, and there was always an ample supply of food.

The Cavalry horses at East Court, and the Artillery horses at Imberhorne were supplied with water from the Company's mains.

Extra latrines were provided, and the soldiers were offered the use of the Swimming Baths, a boon that was greatly appreciated.

The few cases of an infectious nature occurring among the troops were brought here by them. I received every possible help from the Officers of the R.A.M.C. in prompt detection of infectious cases and in the immediate isolation and removal to the Sanatorium.

Cancer.

There were 12 deaths from the various forms of Cancer, the average age at death was 65 ; whatever the origin of Cancer may be there can be no doubt but that it is often a degenerative disease, occurring comparatively late in life.

Inquests.

Five Inquests were held in the District during the year, in four of these death was due to natural causes, the remaining death was that of an infant of seven months whose clothes became ignited by "coloured fire" with which another child was playing.

Water.

The town has been well supplied with water, the additional supply from the new works at Forest Row enables the Water Company to supply the District with great ease.

Housing and Town Planning.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected during 1914, under and for the purposes of section 17 of the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909...	58
Number of such houses considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
Number of representatives made to the Urban Council with a view to the making of closing orders	<i>nil</i>
Number of closing orders made	<i>nil</i>
Number of dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	39

General character of the defects found to exist :—

Damp floors and walls from defective surface drains, defective guttering, dirty condition of inside walls and ceilings, defective roofs, decayed woodwork, windows not made to open.

In last year's report I referred to a scheme for providing increased cottage accomodation, a company called the " East Grinstead Tenants Limited " was formed to provide " healthy homes for the Working Classes and persons of small means."

A number of these cottages are approaching completion, it will be interesting to see if these can be let at a rent to suit the working man's pocket.

Fourteen cottages have been built by private enterprise, a very useful addition to the District.

The housing conditions in the town have been much improved during the last few years, and there is no overcrowding in the poorer districts.

Milk Supply.

The milk distributed through the agency of the various dairies has, on the whole, been of good quality, and the Dairy farms were fairly well managed.

Scavenging.

The new Refuse Destructor is approaching completion and will be capable of burning all the house and trade refuse of the town, the removal of house refuse has been efficiently performed.

Complaints were made during the summer of the smell from certain slaughter-houses in the town, I have paid numerous visits to these premises and can only repeat what I have often said before, that the nuisance cannot be altogether abated so long as the slaughter-houses are in their present position, a public Abbatoir is the only effectual remedy.

The District has been thoroughly inspected during the year, and 44 notices were served.

The weather of 1914 was very variable, an average Spring and Summer preceded a very wet Autumn, the total rainfall for the year was just over 40 inches.

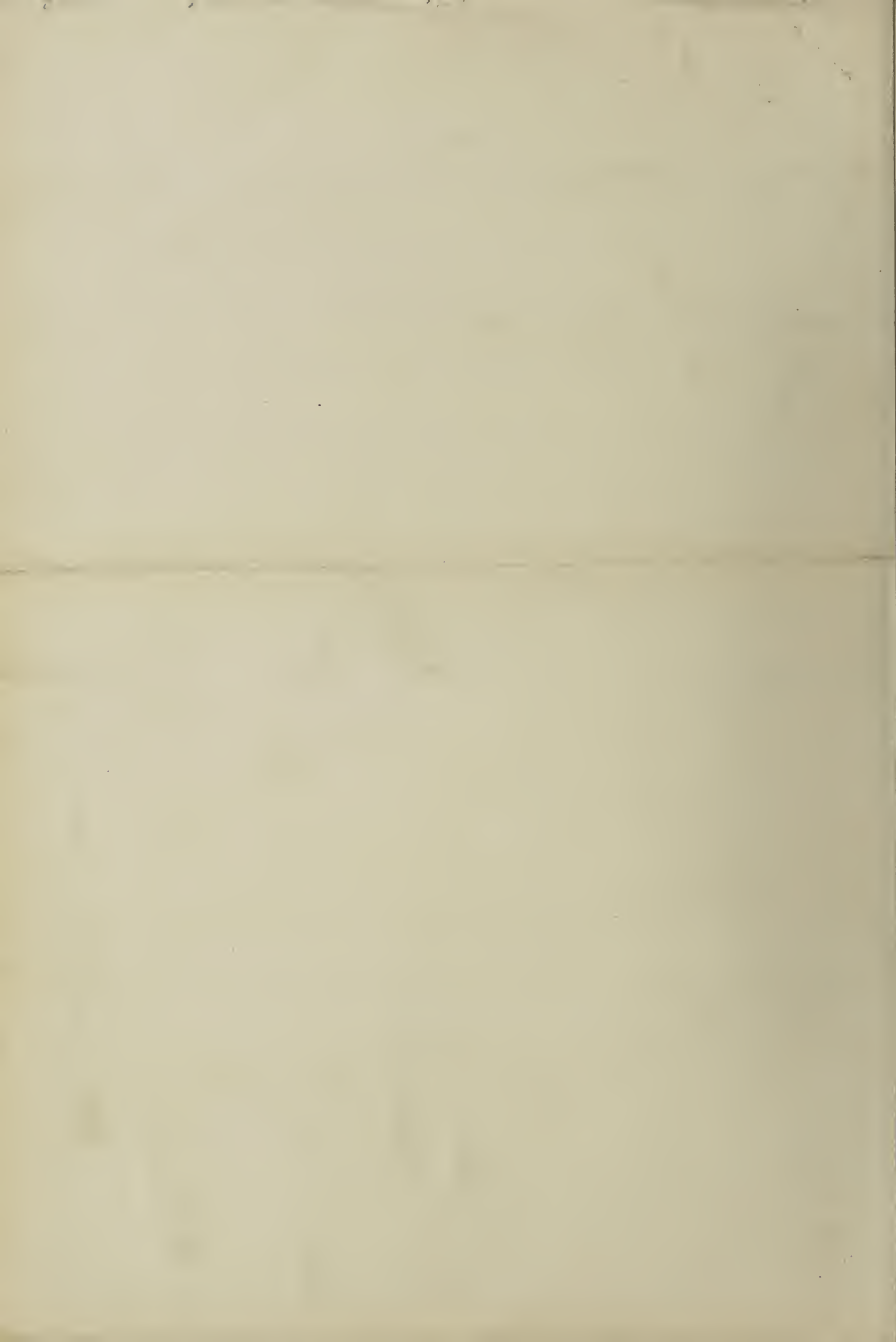
TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of the Whole District during the Year 1914 and previous Years.
EAST GRINSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett. Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	7.400		148	20	113	15.2	27		12	80.1	86	11.6
1910	7.600		136	17.09	86	11.3	13		7	51.4	73	9.6
1911	7.090		132	18.06	102	14.3	21	8	10	75.7	81	11.4
1912	7.150		126	17.6	78	10.7	18	10	5	39.6	60	8.3
1913	7.250		121	16.7	88	12.1	16	10	8	66.1	72	9.9
1914	7.350		129	17.5	95	12.9	17	7	5	38	78	10.6

Area of District in Acres	} ... 6,355.	Total population at all ages	... 7,090	} At Census of 1911.
(land and inland		Total families or separate occupiers	... 1,580	
water).				

PERCY E. WALLIS,
Medical Officer of Health.

OLD STONE HOUSE,
EAST GRINSTEAD,
28th August, 1915.



BOROUGH.

Birth-rate, 23.5.
Death-rate, 10.4.
Zymotic Death-rate, 0.9.
Tuberculosis do. 1.24.
Infantile Mortality, 77.
Density of Population, 44.

MANOR PARK WARD

Birth-rate, 25.2.
Death-rate, 11.7.
Zymotic Death-rate, 1.2.
Tuberculosis do. 1.5.
Infantile Mortality, 99.
Density of Population, 38.6.

PLASHET WARD
WEST

Birth-rate, 18.3.
Death-rate, 9.9.
Zymotic Death-rate } 0.6.
Tuberculosis Death-rate } 0.9.
Infantile Mortality } 72.
Density of Population } 115.9.

PLASHET WARD
EAST

Birth-rate, 22.6.
Death-rate, 9.9.
Zymotic Death-Rate, 0.9.
Tuberculosis do. 0.9.
Infantile Mortality, 52.
Density of Population, 71.4.

CENTRAL WARD WEST

Birth-rate, 22.7.
Death-rate, 10.4.
Zymotic Death-rate, 0.5.
Tuberculosis do. 1.4.
Infantile Mortality, 72.
Density of Population, 53.7.

CENTRAL WARD
EAST

Birth-rate, 24.1.
Death-rate, 9.2.
Zymotic Death-rate, 1.0.
Tuberculosis do. 0.9.
Infantile Mortality, 85.
Density of Population, 41.6.

BECKTON AND
NORTH WOOLWICH WARD

Birth-rate, 29.6.
Death-rate, 11.2.
Zymotic Death-rate, 1.0.
Tuberculosis do. 1.6.
Infantile Mortality, 71.
Density of Population, 18.5.

